



# THE STRIKER STATEMENT

Issue # 39 OIF

19 February 2004



## **Editor**

If there is anyone who would like to receive this by email simply email your address and I will add you to the distribution list.

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**CPT Jonathan Cornett**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Rear-D Commander**

## **REUNION TIPS FROM DOWNRANGE**

For the next several issues of the **Striker Statement**, this column will provide some insights into what is being discussed about reunion with soldiers "downrange" with the hope that soldiers and family members might use it as a conversation starter in the weeks to come.

### **Reunion Tip #2: Forget Your Fantasies**

The closer we get to the end of the deployment, the more our day dreams start to look like this: The sun will be shining, the birds will be singing, the children will behave like perfect angels, and all the normal distractions and problems of life will somehow be put on hold. The bus pulls up, and off steps your soldier hero (or for soldiers, you get off the bus and there is the woman of your dreams.) It's quite the Norman Rockwell scene. All is blissful. All is wonderful.

There is a problem though. None of this real. None of has happened and more than likely, won't happen. Sure, she's the woman of your dreams and you love her, but life is still full of the same distractions and challenges it always had. Indeed, there will be joyful reunions, and there will be a festive atmosphere on the day of homecoming, but somewhere between our day dreams and reality there comes a time when we can begin to feel disappointment if we aren't careful about unrealistic expectations. We sure can't control the weather or how birds sing, but there are many things we can have control over, and our fantasy lives or our expectations are some of things we can control. Here are some suggestions of how to make your daydreams become reality:

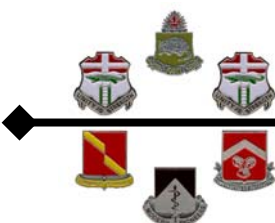
- Give up any unrealistic ideas about reunion. Reunion is joyful reuniting with a large dose of hard work. If your relationship was not all that you wanted it to be before deployment, don't expect deployment to be the cure-all. In fact, it may have challenged you more. Instead, focus on the positive, but realize that you and your spouse have changed, even though some things have not.
- Take it easy. Go slow. The excitement of the actual days leading up to, and the actual homecoming itself, can cause stresses of it's own. Most of those are stressors of worry and doubt, or high expectations. Instead, give yourself, and your spouse time to readjust. Remember how long it took to adjust to being separated? Realize it may take at least as long to adjust to being back together.
- Communicate! Negotiate! One way to avoid failed expectations is to discuss in detail what your expectations are with your spouse. From the bus to the bedroom, describe your daydreams, your sexual fantasies, and your hopes for the time you'll have together. Then listen to your spouse's hopes and desires. It's strongly recommended that you avoid surprises of all sorts. That kind of stress can become overwhelming for the "surpriz-ee" and disappointing for the "surpriz-or". Instead, negotiate what your expectations are for re-union TODAY, and then make plans to make those expectations come true.

We may not be able to keep from thinking about how wonderful it will be to be back together, but we can help each other to keep those expectations within the realm of reality if we communicate and negotiate.

## **CONQUERORS**

**Iraqi Security Forces Protect Iraqi Citizens, Help TF 1-35 Scout Platoon**

When terrorists cause explosions or leave improvised explosive devices (IED) in Baghdad



"2<sup>nd</sup> BCT NEWSLETTER" For previous editions go to:  
[http://www.2bct.1ad.army.mil/2ndBCT/striker\\_newsletter.htm](http://www.2bct.1ad.army.mil/2ndBCT/striker_newsletter.htm)



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communities, one of the primary concerns is keeping innocent civilians safe and away from the dangerous area. In densely populated urban areas, this can be difficult because of the many pedestrians on side streets and small walkways between the buildings. It requires a significant number of assets to provide security and restrict access to the area. Another difficulty can be the language barrier, as people understandably want to be given an explanation for the roadblocks that may interrupt daily business and commutes. The Iraqi Security Forces have been a tremendous help in securing IED areas and communicating to the Iraqi populace. The Task Force 1-35 scout platoon has recently responded to a need to secure potential IED blast areas, and has received essential help from the Iraqi Police (IP) and Force Protection Services (FPS).



On December 25<sup>th</sup>, a rocket attack on the Baghdad Water Services buildings left behind a large unexploded rocket on a small street in the busy Karrada District of Central Baghdad. Large crowds of Iraqi people were near the unexploded rocket due to the many shops trying to conduct business in the area. Most of the people did not understand that they were in extreme danger. The soldiers of the scout platoon and the FPS director were able to quickly spread the message about the dangerous rocket through several FPS personnel and an interpreter. The warning quickly spread to all the nearby shops and motorists on roadways. Because of this effort, many Iraqi citizens were quickly guided out of harm's way. Other citizens, who also received the message about the unexploded rocket, cooperated as well. Many of the motorists at the inconvenient roadblocks began to settle down once

they understood that the roadblocks were emplaced to keep them safely away from an unexploded rocket that could potentially harm them and cause major damage to their vehicles.

On December 31<sup>st</sup>, the scout platoon responded to an IED in the Al-Karkh District. Lieutenant Colonel Mustafa, Iraqi Police Chief, supervised the IPs in directing traffic away from the threatening area prior to soldiers of the scout platoon's arrival. The IP actions allowed these soldiers to help improve security at the site. The police roadblocks also allowed other coalition assets, including Aggressor Company, Task Force 1-35, to concentrate on actions necessary to catch the terrorist who emplaced the dangerous explosive device. Again, the scout platoon, with the help of an element from the Iraqi Security Force, was able to keep innocent civilians safe from a potentially dangerous area caused by an IED.

Terrorist attacks create difficult situations for the peaceful Iraqis. As Iraqi IP and FPS forces gain experience, they are becoming increasingly effective in keeping innocent citizens out of danger and helping coalition forces eliminate terrorists. Joint efforts such as these will continue to play a pivotal role in ensuring success and freedom for the Iraqi people.

## C. Company News

Happy Birthday wishes to Mistie Pulleyn on Feb 23, 2004.



C. Company FRG met 18 Feb to discuss an Easter party for the kids and to welcome a new spouse, Lorinda Risley, to the group.



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## REGULARS

This week in Task Force Regulars saw the beginning of the gunnery cycle, which also starts the homestretch for the deployment heading into the redeployment cycle. Throughout the last ten months, Baghdad has indeed gone thru a large transformation from dictatorship to planting the seeds of democracy. As Americans, we must always remember that our freedom and democratic way of living was not achieved over night. This will hold the same for the people of Iraq.

Last week in Attack Company, the long days of training have finally culminated for the soldiers of A Co. On Tuesday 10 February 04, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> platoons as well as HHC rode down to Butler Range to shoot Bradley tables 6-8 gunnery. These tables will qualify the Bradley Fighting Vehicle crews on the weapons systems in the turret of the vehicle. These skills start with the basic assembly and disassembly of the 25mm cannon and crew tasks. The final crew tests come with target identification and the firing of the Bradley's with live rounds. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> platoons will finish on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> platoon will shoot with B Co immediately after.



**CSM Andrews, ICDC 1SG and Guidon stand during ceremony as LTC Jones addresses the ceremony**

On a tragic note, on the afternoon of Thursday 12 February 2004, Ahmad Kalaf Saleh, an ICDC soldier from A Co suffered a fatal heart attack following a physical fitness run. Ahmad was a dedicated father and husband as well as a loyal patriot of Iraq. His dedication to ensuring a peaceful and democratic

Iraq was unquestionable. LTC Jones commented in his speech, "the mission of the ICDC is to protect the citizens of Iraq, PFC Saleh believed in this calling throughout his adult life." A memorial service was conducted on Saturday, 14 February to remember this fallen comrade in arms.

In Warrior land, Third Platoon Bravo Company conducted Dismounted patrols in and around Baghdad's former Air Force Academy. Since the end of the war, this compound has become a home to squatters and lower income families alike. However, despite their living conditions, you can see we are still very popular with the children of the area, many of whom know us by name and like walking with us for awhile on our patrols.

Overall a slow week for the Commandos operationally, but the company is beginning the difficult task of redeploying. Leading the charge for this week was PFC Busti (NBC NCO). PFC Busti single-handedly inventoried, scrubbed hand receipts, and turned over thousands of dollars of NBC gear to the BN CHEMO in a fast, efficient, and professional manner.



**Featured in this photo are SGT Harris, SGT Leon, SPC Klein, LT Thornton, SPC Gonzalez, PFC Urena, and PFC Marshall.**

As the Regulars close out for the week, a fast paced week if I might add, the winter is about over and the weather is fixing to get hot again. One piece of advice that CSM Andrews likes to give to the soldiers definitely holds true "the weather is starting to get hot, soldiers need to keep drinking the water







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and hydrate." The Road March back to Kuwait continues to get closer and closer and that means Baumholder is getting closer. The light at the end of the tunnel is almost shining thru, ***Regulars, By God!***

## GATORS

TF 2-6 is continuing to train and conduct missions into the month of February. All the men are working extremely hard to meet the challenges of the mission as well as putting efforts into the early stages of redeployment operations. The officers and NCOs of the Gator Battalion Staff are an integral part of the operation to turn over responsibility of our sector while at the same time maintaining vigilance and ensuring safety and security for the Iraqi people.

The staff coordinate many meetings and workgroups, sometimes back to back and sometimes late into the night, to ensure that everybody is able to meet their goals and redeploy without a hitch. There is much involved behind the scenes that those down "on the line" in companies as well as those at home do not hear about. The efforts made by the staff are sometimes underappreciated but are always a keystone to a unit conducting smooth and safe operations.

Major Bertinetti, who is the chief of the Gator Staff, is responsible for leading the staff in the right direction and making sure all goals are reached. SFC Renner, SGT Egetenmeir and PFC Marrs run the tactical operations center (TOC) during the day. CPT Swope, SSG Mangold, and PFC Warner run the TOC throughout the night. Many soldiers also work in the Gator TOC and their jobs range from manning radios, maintaining and manning vehicles, to composing briefings.

Being a staff officer or NCO is a job that can be sometimes described as thankless but it is no less important than other jobs. The men who work here will rotate down to "the line" and the leaders and men in the companies may one day be staff, it can be viewed as a sort of right of passage in an infantry battalion. Currently the men who are on the staff will continue to put their best foot forward in order to continue guiding and resourcing the Gators through successful operations and to a safe and efficient redeployment.

## **EVENTS:**

- HHC has a POC meeting Feb 24 6:30pm Red Cross Room. This is a Pot Luck dinner. Contact Lisa Jordan to find out what to bring [indio-69@T-online.de](mailto:indio-69@T-online.de) or BC 903 682.
- Bravo will be having their Spouse Reunion Intergration Training on February 25 at 5:30pm at the Rheinlander. Come enjoy the fixin's at the Potato Bar while gaining useful information on redeployment & reintegration with your spouse. POC Lisa Proctor BC 999 602.
- Post-Wide Redeployment Brief Wagon Wheel Theatre 25 Feb 9:30-10:30am. Please make your childcare arrangements early. More information contact Helen Williams at [helen.k.williams@us.army.mil](mailto:helen.k.williams@us.army.mil).

## **CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

### **God Is A Good God**

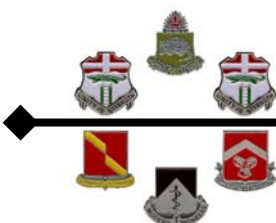
Luke 6:35-36

*But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.*

Unfortunately, not many people understand that God is truly good -- but He is. The world has been deceived into accepting an image of God that's mean and vindictive, harsh and strict.

But the Bible, especially the fuller revelation given in the New Testament, paints a different picture of God. He is a Father -- a good Father. It would be good news if we had a God who was kind to the average person. But God doesn't stop there. According to Jesus, who knows, God is kind to unthankful and evil people, too! That may not be what you often hear preached, but that's what Jesus said. The Most High God is kind to evil people.

Jesus also said that not only is God kind to evil people, but He is merciful. In fact, one passage even says that God delights in mercy! (Micah 7:18)





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09 June Last Day of School

Too often people think God is mad at them, so there is little chance He would help them. The opposite is true. Jesus told us that God so loved the world . . . . And He hasn't changed His mind.

## **BAUMHOLDER INFORMATION FEBRUARY**

- 23 Rose Parade, downtown Baumholder, 2pm
- 24 Town Hall, 4pm, Rheinlander
- 25 Deployment Support Group, 9am  
LINKS, 10am
- 27 Job Fair, Rheinlander, 9am-4pm

## **MARCH**

- 7 Breakfast at Rheinlander
- 11 Volunteer Reception
- 15 USAREUR Training Holiday
- 30 Town Hall, 4pm
- 31 Deployment Support Group, 9am  
LINKS, 10am

## **APRIL**

- 2 USAREUR Training Holiday  
No DODDS School
- 4 Daylight Saving Time Begins
- 5-9 DODDS Spring Break
- 9 Good Friday, German Holiday
- 11 Easter Sunday  
Brunch at Rheinlander
- 12 Easter (Ostermontag), German Holiday
- 27 Town Hall
- 28 Deployment Support Group, 9am  
LINKS, 10am

## **DoDDs CALENDAR**

- 1st Tuesday of the month SAC Meeting,  
Baumholder High at 1630
  - 3rd Thursday of the month SAC Meeting,  
Wetzel Elementary at 1430
- 02 April No School, Teachers Work Day
  - 05 April Spring Recess Begins
  - 12 April Instruction Resumes
  - 30 April 1700 Buccaneer Night
  - 13 May Acceleration Date
  - 31 May No School, Memorial Day
  - 04 June High Graduation

## **GIRL SCOUT WEEK**

March 7-13, 2004

**March 7** - Girl Scout Sunday; wear your uniform to Church and help usher or pass out programs. Be sure to let your leader know you went (save your program to give her, just in case).

**March 13** - Flag ceremony-5 pm in front of the BSB. A snack and craft to follow at the Girl Scout hut. Wear your uniform/vest/sash.

## **PUBLIC AFFAIRS HOST NATION EVENTS**

**Madeleine Dwoiakowski, 485-1600**

19Feb Old Women Fasching (tie cutting)

24Feb Fasching market at Kusel

## **Fasching Parades:**

- 21Feb Street Fasching at Kusel, 1000
- 22Feb Fasching Parade at Kirchenbollenbach, 1400
- 22Feb Fasching Parade at St. Wendel, 1400
- 23Feb Fasching Parade at Idar-Oberstein, 1410
- 23Feb Fasching Parade at Fischbach, 1400
- 23Feb Fasching Parade at Baumholder, 1410
- 23Feb Fasching Parade at Kirn, 1411

## **Children Fasching events:**

- 22Feb Fasching party at Berschweiler, Dr. Darge Gym
- 22Feb Costume ball at Kusel, Lehnstrasse, 1400
- 22Feb Fasching party at Rohrbach, 1400
- 22Feb Fasching party at Leitzweiler
- 22Feb Fasching party at Hahnweiler
- 23Feb Fasching party at Baumholder, 1500
- 23Feb Fasching party at Fohren-Linden, 1400
- 23Feb Costume ball at Heimbach, 1411
- 24Feb Fasching party at Thallichtenberg

## **RHEINLANDER EVENTS**

- Let your voice be heard at the Army Family Action Plan Conference. Conference runs 19-20 February at the Rheinlander Convention Center. Call DSN 485-6985 for more information or to volunteer.





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- Job Fair Friday, 27 February at the Rheinlander from 900-1600. Call DSN 485-6046.
- Family Night- Pizza, pasta, and salad buffet
- Wednesdays, 18-2100, ONLY \$4 for kids under 12!
- Internet only 9 cents/minute in the Cyber Zone!!

## OUTDOOR REC TRIPS

- Frankfurt Zoo, 28 February. Cost is \$35 for adults and \$25 for children. Includes transportation and admission.
- Skiing and Snowboarding in the Black Forrest on 24 February \$35.
- Ski-Snowboarding to Austria 13-16 February \$265.
- **Seats are limited – so call today to reserve your space! DSN 485-7182.**

## CYS

Joanne Hernandez, 485-7198

### **High School Dining Out**

Date: Sat, 28 Feb, Mexican in Kaiserslautern  
Time: 1600-2100 (Depart from the Teen Café)  
Cost: Order off the menu

### **Kids' Night Out**

1st-6th grade @ Wetzel SAS 485-7475/8792  
Sat, 21 Feb  
1800 – 2200

Must be registered with CYS  
Pay at time of sign-up, \$6/child  
Spaces limited.

### **Parents' Night Out**

Infant-Kindergarten @ Wetzel CDC 485-7133/7284  
Sat, 21 Feb 1800 – 2200  
Must be registered with CYS  
Pay at time of sign-up, \$10/child  
Spaces limited.

### **Spring Youth Sports**

Registration 2-27 February, ages 5-18.  
Baseball and Softball. Volunteer coaches needed.  
Skills assessment 6 March and practice begins 15 March. Call DSN 485-7276.

## ARMY FAMILY TEAM BUILDING (AFTB)

**Next Class:** March 10 from 8:30-1400, **Level 1**

All classes are held at the AFTB Classroom. Health Clinic Complex Building 8745 Room 11 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor. For any questions please call Mari Haley, AFTB Program Coordinator at 485 - 8542 or 06783 - 6 - 8542.

## ARTS AND CRAFTS CENTER

### **Instructional Classes**

-21 February, Kids Play Day "Making Fasching Masks" \$5

**Call DSN 485-6687 for more information or to register.**

## AUTO SKILLS CENTER

### **Instructional Classes**

--Basic Auto Maintenance 26 February

**All classes begin at 1400 and are free with bay rental. Call DSN 485-6117**

## RE-INTEGRATION AFTER DEPLOYMENT

ACS Spouses Reunion Training. Training can help reduce reunion stress, improve marital communication and teach signals that may indicate a need for help. Training is every Wednesday. Child care is available provided your reserve with ACS in advance. **We can even come to your FRG meeting for group training sessions (day or evening).** Call DSN 485-8188.

## BAUMHOLDER EDUCATION CENTER

- Term 3 College and Adult Education Courses 19 Jan – 12 March 2004
- Adult Education English as a Second Language (ESL) Course Wed/Fri 1100-1300 Hrs
- Effective Military Writing I (ASEP class for NCO's) Feb 23-27 1300-1700 Hrs
- Army Emergency Relief Spouse Education Assistance Application Deadline: 01 Mar 04 For Term 4
- New financial aid forms for 2003-04 now available.

**Visit the Education Center in building 8332 or call**





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485-7557

<http://www.baumholder.army.mil/education>

## ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST INFORMATION

- Absentee ballots may be requested from your state of residence. Please follow instructions below:
- Go to [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov)
- In left menu bar, click on " On-line Federal Post Card Application".
- Go to bottom of this page and click on " Click Here To Get Form".
- Click on your respective state of residence for "OFPCA". (The state VAG will give you more detailed information for individual state guidelines.)
- Read ALL instructions before downloading the form.
- Fill out the absentee ballot request form and mail per directions of your state.
- (Generally, this is mailed to the Supervisor of Elections in your state capital.)

Stop by the Main PX and meet your Community Voting Assistance Officers. They will be there on Feb 5th from 11am-2pm to hand out flyers and answer questions.

222<sup>nd</sup> BSB Community Voting Officer: MSG Lester Reed: 485-7138

222nd BSB Community Alternate Voting Assistance Officer: Ms. Tyler at DSN : 485-8892 Civilian: 06783-6-8892

## MEDICAL CARE DURING REINTEGRATION PERIOD

- **Priority of resources will go to returning soldiers**
- Acute Care only for six week period
- Well Baby and OB Care will continue as usual
- Access to Pediatric Care should not be impacted
- Wellness visits and other routine services postponed
- Medical Refills and CYS Physicals will be done on walk-In basis on Thursday evenings

- Physical Therapy will be AD Only
- **Use of Krankenhause during clinic hours will be authorized**

## TAX CENTER

FREE Income Tax Assistance!  
Federal & State Returns  
Electronic Filing

## **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!**

Free IRS tax training will be provided  
Call 485-6506 now!

LOCATION: Building 8670, next to Community Bank  
DSN: 485-8644

OPENING DAY: 31 January 2004

HOURS: Mon-Thurs 0900-1700 Fri 0900-1500

## BAUMHOLDER COMMUNITY SPOUSES CLUB

### **It's Not Too Late to Join!**

Memberships are available for \$8.00 for the rest of the year (ending in May 2004). Applications are available at the Thrift Shop and the Welcome Center or contact the Membership Secretary, [Jill.Watson@us.army.mil](mailto:Jill.Watson@us.army.mil) for further information.

### **BCSC Spring Bazaar - The Place to Shop!**

The BCSC Spring Bazaar is coming to town! The bazaar will be held February 27 - February 29 in the Hall of Champions from 1000 - 2000 on Friday and Saturday and 1000 - 1800 on Sunday. Admission is free to all valid ID card holders and their guests. If you would like to volunteer at the bazaar, please contact the Bazaar Chairperson at [ginalyn.cowles@us.army.mil](mailto:ginalyn.cowles@us.army.mil).



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